

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING.

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ADVERTISING OFFICE.
All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, at the editorial department.

BUSINESS LETTERS.
All business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Nebraska, and be made payable to the order of the company.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietors
107 Broadway Building and Seventeenth Street.

There is no excuse for a failure to get the Bee on the table. All newspapers, hotels, restaurants, and other places where the Bee is read should be supplied with a full supply. Travelers who want the Bee can get it on trains where other Omaha papers are carried and are required to pay the full fare.

Give us your name, but for publication or unnecessary use, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE DAILY BEE.

Sworn Statement of Circulation.

State of Nebraska, ss.
County of Douglas, ss.
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A CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION.

The movement for a union of the five republics of Central America is in line with political progress in the western hemisphere. It is a recognition of the principle that "in union there is strength." Split up into distinct states, having separate and more or less antagonistic interests, peaceful relations between the Central American republics has been preserved with no little difficulty, while the least favored of them have suffered in prosperity from the competition of the superior resources and advantages of the others. The more far-seeing statesmen have long seen that in order to insure a vigorous development of all, as well as to secure a political influence that would be felt and to maintain peaceful relations, a union of the five republics on a sound basis was necessary.

Such a plan has been periodically discussed many times since the division of Central America, but it remained for President Barrios of Guatemala to give the movement for union practical form and vitality. At the meeting of a diet composed of delegates from the five republics last September the representatives of Guatemala were instructed to submit to that deliberative body a scheme of union, while leaving unimpaired the sovereign rights of each of the states, should proclaim the republic of Central America as a single political entity. This provisional compact received the approval of all the members of the diet, but it encountered a great deal of opposition from ambitious politicians who saw that such a union might interfere with the success of their personal aspirations. President Barrios was an especial object of detraction and a conspiracy was organized for his overthrow, but was promptly crushed and the leaders summarily punished. The discussion of the question of union has since been actively carried on and according to Washington dispatches the Central American delegates to the Pan-American congress are receiving assurances from their home governments concerning the success of the movement.

The union of the five Central American republics would be a consummation of great interest to the United States. It could not fail to very much simplify the problem of closer commercial relations with that portion of the hemisphere, and in the rapid development of Central America—which it is reasonable to expect would follow such a union—we should find a growing market for our manufactures and such other of our products as the people of that region should require. The movement still encounters opposition, but the advocates indicate that this growing feebler, and the best observers believe that when the question is finally submitted to the action of the people the plan of union will be overwhelmingly endorsed.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEMANDS IT.

During the past two years John Rush has handled and disbursed fully three millions of dollars as city treasurer. Twelve hundred thousand dollars of paving bonds, sewer construction bonds and school bonds have been disposed of by Mr. Rush at a premium that would aggregate nearly one hundred thousand dollars. It is conceded by all who are familiar with the finances of Omaha that the functions devolving upon our city treasurer could not have been more efficiently discharged than they have been by Mr. Rush.

Our citizens are now confronted with the question, whether Mr. Rush shall be displaced at this critical juncture by a man without experience, whose principal claim to the office is his relationship to a family of millionaires. It is prudent at this time, when we are on the eve of the most important year of improvements in the history of Omaha, to retire Mr. Rush and place a new hand at the bellows.

It seems to us that such a change cannot but be injurious to the public interest. Public safety demands that Mr. Rush should remain in charge of our municipal finances for two years longer.

REED FOR SPEAKER.

The Hon. Thomas B. Reed of Maine will be the speaker of the Fifty-first congress, he having been chosen by the caucus of republican representatives on the second ballot. The contest thus terminated was carried on with very great earnestness, but with entire freedom from personal or factional bitterness, so that no ill feeling will follow the result. The effort to give the contest sectional character received no countenance from the candidates, and the decision of a majority of the caucus, all but one of the republican members of the house being present, will be heartily acquiesced in by all the supporters of the other candidates and by the candidates themselves. The republicans of the entire country, also, will accept the result without the least complaint or criticism.

The qualifications of Mr. Reed, for the speakership are universally admitted. His long experience on the floor of the house of representatives and his high standing as a parliamentarian give assurance that he will discharge the duties of the speakership with distinguished ability, while his capable leadership of his party in the house and the general service he has rendered gave him a very strong claim to the high reward he has received. The position of speaker of the fifty-first congress is likely to be exceptionally arduous. The parties in the house are so nearly equal that great tact, alertness and firmness will be required of the presiding officer, and all these qualities Mr. Reed has shown he possesses to an extent not exceeded by any member of the house of either party. The indications are that the approaching session will not only be a very busy and important one, but that it will be characterized by prolonged and heated party conflicts. The first of these will occur over the adoption of the rules, but after this shall have been settled there will not be wanting subjects of party controversy, as the session progresses.

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en which the democratic minority will exhaust all the resources of parliamentary tactics for obstructing the will of the majority. It is well understood to be the purpose of the leaders of the minority to assert their power whenever they shall deem it necessary, on strictly party grounds, to do so, and with the narrow republican majority the democrats can generally make an obstruction policy effective. Under such circumstances the labors of the speaker are greatly increased and not only must he have skill, tact and determination, but plenty of physical endurance. In all these respects Mr. Reed is well equipped for the position.

Mr. McPherson of Pennsylvania was the choice of the caucus for clerk of the house. He is entirely familiar with the duties of the position, having filled it acceptably in half a dozen congresses, and while the selection of a younger man appeared desirable, the very strong claims of Mr. McPherson on the score of long and faithful service to the party could not be ignored. The house will meet and organize to-morrow.

CUSHING'S IOWA RECORD.

Omaha, Nov. 30.—To the Editor of The Bee: Suppose you reflect a moment on the probability of the truth of your dispatches from Clarinda, Ia., respecting Cushing's record there. Briefly stated your correspondent makes these charges against Mr. Cushing: That he, as a member of the firm of Fitzgerald & Co., promised merchants that if they would furnish supplies to sub-contractors he would see them paid; that relying on these promises merchants and farmers did furnish to sub-contractors supplies to the amount and value of about \$10,000 which the sub-contractors failed to pay for, and which Cushing refused to pay. This is the charge made by your correspondent. Do you not see that it is absurd on its face? If the facts were as stated by your correspondent, the goods being furnished on the faith and credit of Mr. Cushing's promise, even though the promise was not in writing, Cushing and the firm of Fitzgerald & Co. would have been responsible for the price of the supplies so furnished. The statute of frauds would have no application to such a case. Judgment could have been recovered against Cushing or his firm for the full value of the supplies so furnished. But Cushing and Fitzgerald are each and every one a certain and honest man, and they would not do such a thing. The charges made by Woodward, the newspaper reporter, has published his report which bears strong testimony to the need of reforms at recruiting stations and makes valuable suggestions looking towards preventing such abuses in the future.

It is interesting to note that two officers serving in the Department of the Platte have been foremost in intelligent discussion of the desertion problem. The admirable prize essay of Lieutenant McAnaney of the Ninth cavalry, himself once an enlisted man, and the thorough work of Captain Fred K. Elstein of the Twenty-first infantry, stationed at Fort Sidney, have contributed much to the recent changes which will, it is believed, add variety to a soldier's life.

No one likes a monotone. In art or literature or life. It is now generally conceded that one of the chief causes of desertion has been the absence of a variety which can readily be granted to the life of the enlisted men. It was through an appreciation of this fact that General Schofield issued his recent order, abolishing late roll call and transferring it to the sunset hours. By this change the enlisted man when off duty will be given his evening to himself without other restrictions than the obligations which civilian society imposes upon citizens generally. In posts near cities the theatres may be attended and other recreations sought without the danger of missing roll call at half past eight or the necessity of asking for a pass for the evening. In other words the private in the army, if not detailed for regular tour of duty, will find his day's work done at sunset, not to be taken up again until reveille sounds the next morning.

Another experiment which will be tried with the same end in view is the establishment of "canteens" at all army posts, where soldiers can find amusement and purchase the little luxuries of life at a minimum cost, can enjoy a quiet game of billiards or find comfortable and warm quarters for recreation and conversation.

Both of these moves are in the right direction and will doubtless assist greatly in rendering the enlisted men more contented. They are already the best paid soldiers among the nations. With the greater care ordered in recruiting to the end that respectable characters may be excluded from the ranks there ought to be a marked decrease in the number of men who desert in the first year of their enlistment.

AID ITS PROGRESS.

No western city of its size shows more numerous marks of metropolitan progress than Omaha. The wholesale trade is pushing out year by year to occupy new territory and reaches west until it meets its rivals only on the boundary of the Pacific coast. Our jobbing firms in the various lines represented are strong and vigorous and enterprising.

As a manufacturing city, too, Omaha is prospering. The fringe of mills and factories, of foundries and works which surrounds the city is widening and broadening every year. With a smaller proportion of foreign capital invested than in any other large western city, Omaha is herself investing in Omaha as she feels up her yearly balance sheet. Home confidence in home is the best assurance of local stability.

Omaha has outgrown the village and town period of her history. She is a metropolis. Her broadly paved streets, her sewerage and waterworks systems, her rapidly extending systems of public improvements, all the machinery of metropolitan existence are here planned not alone for the present but for a future of growth. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in a proper expenditure of benefits to come. The taxpayers have cheerfully joined hands to give impetus and character and stability to the march of progress and to prevent a halt, which is a retrogression.

The time has come when the onward movement ought to be changed into a quickstep. Stragglers, obstructionists and mossbacks should be retired to the rear.

The development of these vast inter-

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ests has just begun. A year will make a great difference in the growth of the country. What has already been accomplished is represented by one hundred millions in real property, nine hundred miles of railroad, five thousand miles of irrigating ditches